

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

- THE SPECIFICATION OF THE PATENT IS HEREBY AMENDED AS SET FORTH BELOW:

Please replace SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION section with the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] We have now found that silver wire containing at least 92.5 wt% Ag and about 0.5- about 3 wt % Ge, the balance being copper or other conventional alloying ingredients, preferably boron as grain refiner, and impurities, can be formed into links and the links can be welded closed on conventional automatic chain forming and welding machines with sufficient reliability to make chain of indefinite length at commercially useful speeds e.g. 100-250 links per minute. Surprisingly, the conditions that can be used for welding are generally similar to those for welding gold chain. In the case of laser welding, which is preferred, powers of 20-80 W, e.g. about 30 W may be used, and the heat may be conveyed from the laser to the site of the weld by means of an optical fibre cable.

[0009] In one aspect the invention provides a silver chain which comprises lengths of silver wire formed into successive links whose ends abut and are closed by brazed or welded joints, wherein the wire comprises at least 92.5 wt% Ag and about 0.5- about 3 wt % Ge.

[00010] In a further aspect, the invention provides a method of making silver chain which comprises forming lengths of silver wire into successive chain links whose ends abut, and closing the links by brazing or welding abutting ends thereof by means of a laser, wherein the wire comprises at least 92.5 wt% Ag and about 0.5- about 3 wt % Ge.

[00010.1] Embodiments disclosed herein include a method of making silver chain which comprises forming lengths of silver wire into successive chain links whose ends abut, and closing the links by brazing or welding abutting ends thereof by means of a laser, wherein the wire comprises at least 92.5 wt % Ag and about 0.5 - about 3 wt % Ge. Further embodiments include the method of making silver chain, wherein the wire is of a ternary Ag-Cu-Ge alloy

containing at least 92.5 wt% Ag, 0.5-3 wt% Ge, elemental boron as a grain refiner at a concentration of 1-40 ppm and the balance, apart from incidental ingredients and/or impurities, copper. Also included is the method for making silver chain wherein the wire is of a ternary Ag-Cu-Ge alloy comprising, apart from incidental ingredients and impurities, not less than 92.5 wt% Ag, about 6.3 wt % Cu, about 1.2 wt % Ge, and about 4-8 ppm elemental B. Additionally included is the method for making silver chain wherein the wire is of a ternary Ag-Cu-Ge alloy containing more than 93.5 wt% to 95.5 wt% Ag, from 0.5 to 3 wt% Ge, 1-40 ppm elemental boron and the remainder, apart from incidental ingredients and/or impurities, copper. The embodiments disclosed further include the method method for making silver chain wherein the wire is of a ternary Ag-Cu-Ge alloy containing about 94.5 wt% Ag, 1.2 wt% Ge, 4-8 ppm elemental boron and the remainder, apart from incidental ingredients and/or impurities, copper. The embodiments also include the method for making silver chain wherein the wire has a solder or brazing alloy core wherein the brazing alloy is of the Ag-Cu-Zn family containing at least 55 wt % Ag and from 0.5 to 3 wt % Ge. Embodiments also include the method for making silver chain wherein the non-core regions of the wire comprise about 1 wt% Ge and may additionally comprise 0.1-0.3 wt % boron. The embodiments also include the method for making silver chain wherein the wire, prior to welding into said chain, has been annealed in an oxidizing atmosphere.